The Quiet Corner

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PUTNAM TRAVELER

Supporting Tourism & Communities in Northeastern, CT & Beyond...

ISSUE NO. 39 • NORTHEASTERN, CONNECTICUT

DOWNTOWN MAP INSIDE • JULY - SEPTEMBER 2013

For an afternoon, a day, or a weekend...come and enjoy Northeastern Connecticut!

Martha's Herbary

Summertime in the Quiet Corner is anything but quiet. In this issue of the Putnam Traveler you will discover new things to do, unique places to visit and learn a little history about the northeastern Connecticut. Have you ever wanted to visit the Quasset School - this summer you can take a tour! Did you know Liberace once dined at Zip's Diner? Or that Gwyn Careg Inn once employed 25 full time gardeners! Want to learn a new craft or cooking tips? Martha's Herbary offers workshops throughout the year including Succulent Wreath Making, Gluten-Free Dairy –Free Cooking, and My Grandmother's Pie. Have you ever wanted to try zip lining? Now you can at The Adventure Park in nearby Storrs. Plus enjoy summer events throughout the season. Please let our advertisers and local business owners know you found them in Putnam Traveler Newspaper!

INSIDE:

Local Advertisers...Local Real Estate... Calendar of Events...this issue features Pomfret's hidden gem...***Gwyn Careg Inn***...this beautiful inn and property is full of history and is currently owned and operated by the Bove family.... ***Zip's Diner*** is an American Icon that has been family-owned and operated since 1954!...Tour the ***Quasset School***...this one-room schoolhouse served students all the way up until 1944, making it one of the country's oldest one-room schoolhouses in continuous use...looking for some adventure? Take your friends and the kids to the new ***Adventure Park*** in Storrs, Connecticut! The park is described as an 'aerial forest ropes park' for ages ten and up and it looks like a lot of fun...Enjoy the sounds of ***Linda Eder al Fresco at Rotary Park in Putnam*** on July 13th...***Happy 25th Anniversary to Martha's Herbary***... for nature lovers and those who love unique home decor, clothes, jewelry and more...this is the place to visit this summer...and don't miss the ***Putnam Traveler's Quiet Corner Crossword Puzzle***...answers are posted on our website at ***www.putnamtraveler.com***!

Downtown Putnam Area Map • Businesses • Local Activities • Shopping & Calendar of Events

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Printing of the Putnam Traveler provided by **101 Business Solutions,** Brooklyn, CT
Mailing services provided by **The Laser Letter Shop**, Pomfret, CT

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Gwyn Careg

Pomfret's Hidden Gem

Even in the midst of a June thunderstorm, the grounds of the Gwyn Careg Inn on Wolf Den Road in Pomfret are gorgeous. Perennial beds of peonies, iris, hosta and boxwood border slate walkways and everything is bounded by lush, emerald green lawns. Huge rhododendrons in full bloom and majestic specimen trees of all species punctuate the landscape. A wall of evergreens frames a vista of a quiet, lily-carpeted pond just down the hill. And the private, high-walled garden where many a bride and groom have said their "I dos" evokes a timeless, European elegance.

BY CRIS CADIZ

This idyllic setting has hosted many weddings over the years and Owners and Innkeepers Dennis and Rose Bove hope to help usher in many more happy unions. This is their thirteenth year at Gwyn Careg. Although they have raised a family of three children and both continue to work full time jobs in addition to running the Inn, they are still happy, smiling and passionate about their business.

"This is a hobby for us," says Rose. 'It's really a work of passion. We both have full time careers. Just the other day the mother-of-the- bride was saying, 'You served us breakfast at 8 this morning and it's now 11 and you're still serving us.' And I thought, you know it's funny I don't even look at it as if I'm serving or working. It's just that I want to see them happy. I think that's the greatest joy is seeing people enjoy the property and admiring the hard work that you've done. That's the greatest return I think, more than anything."

Rose has worked for the CT Office of Tourism for about 26 years. She commutes into Hartford every day. Dennis works in sales for an environmental laboratory as a territory manager covering the states of RI, CT & MA. "It's just a lifestyle that we chose," says Rose. "People ask, how do we do it? I don't know! Once you get into

the season, you just start rolling...We're just really happy that we are able to maintain this facility in a way that is welcomed by the community. It's still a little hidden gem, even to the locals who are surprised sometimes. 'You're open?' they ask...'You do weddings?'

The Inn has hosted up to 16 weddings a year. They are mostly destination weddings, with a lot of New Yorkers, plus folks from Boston, even D.C. and California. Their clients find them online or in bridal magazines, although the Boves are shifting toward taking advantage of social media and look forward to a redesigned website in the near future. "They are looking for something really unique, that wows them, has privacy and is affordable," says Rose. "What we offer in a setting like this compared to what is offered in New York...it's night and day. We have a lot of New Yorkers that come up here and they are just wowed by what we take for granted living here, the greenery, the quietness. And they just can't believe what they can get for their money."

"We only do one wedding a weekend," adds Dennis, "and we leave it up to the bride who gets to stay in the rooms." One advantage of only hosting one wedding a weekend is that the wedding party can decide when they want to start. "We totally work around their schedule, whether it's a morning, afternoon or evening function," says Rose. "We have a good crew here," says Dennis. "Our caterer—the Mansion at Bald Hill—they do a great job. They have a great staff and they know exactly what to do. Everything is always on time and there are lots of compliments on the food. It's worked out well for us with them."

In addition to wedding parties, Gwyn Careg serves many families from the area private schools for overnight stays. "We get a lot of repeats; they come back year after year, and it's sad when the kids graduate because they become like family," says Rose. The Inn also hosts other functions, such as commemorative birthday parties, showers, rehearsal dinners, class reunions, and so on. "It's a nice banquet facility," says Rose. "We really try and make it exclusive no matter what we do, especially when we have weddings. We don't rent the rooms out to anyone not related to the party, so it's theirs. We do take the risk of them not renting the rooms but nonetheless we make it their place."

The stately white brick and stone building dates back to 1760, when it was originally built by William Osgood. It remained a family farm for over 100 years until the 300-acre property was purchased by wealthy Boston heiress Eleanor Clark Murray in 1899 and turned into what was considered one of the most beautiful estates in Eastern Connecticut. She named the estate Gwyn Careg meaning "pure stone" in Welsh and was responsible for the incredible landscaping, which required 25 full-time gardeners to maintain. She also had a penchant for animals. "She had prized livestock, an elephant for the children and she bought albino deer that were fenced in here," said Dennis. In 1942 the Marquess and Marquessa de Tallyrand purchased the estate and used it as a seasonal retreat until 1964. The estate also housed a private boarding school during the 1960s and 70s called More Hall, which at its height educated up to 75 students, who sometimes return to the Inn and tell stories about living at the school.

In 1980, Gwyn Careg was refurbished and run as an inn for over a decade. Eventually, the property was

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foreclosed upon and the house lay empty for a few years before the Boves purchased it in 1999 along with 14 acres of the original estate. When the Boves moved in, they did a lot of cosmetic work on the property, which had fallen into disrepair. In addition to a lot of painting and some minor electrical and plumbing repair, they also re-roofed the building and put in 75 new windows. They mowed the grass, which had grown up like a hay field, over and over until it became a lush green lawn again.

Today, Gwyn Careg offers six guest rooms and suites, each with private bath and each larger than the last. "We get the New York crowd that comes up who say it's bigger than their apartment," laughs Dennis as he shows off the spacious Delphinium Suite. The Bridal Suite is so large the canopied four-poster bed looks dainty. Light pours in through French doors that lead out onto a sun porch overlooking the landscaped grounds. "When you have a wedding the bride is welcome to get ready here all day long," says Dennis, who explains there's a charge only if they stay overnight. The room is large enough for an entourage of bridesmaids, makeup artists, hairdressers and more.

None of the guest rooms have phones or TVs in order to promote rest and relaxation. A TV room replete with comfy leather couches allows for a media fix if guests desire. A large wood paneled dining room serves as the breakfast area, where guests are either served a family style breakfast (usually the case for wedding parties) or eat at their convenience between 8 and 10AM. Rose and Dennis, hands-on Innkeepers in every area, are the chefs. This large room also serves as a buffet area for smaller weddings and functions. The back dining room can seat up to 54 guests and additional guests can overflow onto the adjacent sun porch. Just outside, a 30 by 30 tent can be attached to allow for an indoor celebration of about 100 people among the three areas. Larger weddings are hosted outside on a lower level of lawn where they erect a 40 by 80 up to 120 foot tent, which can accommodate almost 250 people. An indoor bar area, which they don't use much in the summer time, is a great for Christmas parties or rainy days.

Besides the historic nature of the impressive house, there are many reminders of the past outdoors. Dennis likes sending guests on a path into the woods to discover a relic of the estate when it was owned by Eleanor Clark Murray between 1899 and 1940. "As you walk up on the crest of the hill, there's a huge empty granite pool. It's a monster and people are always amazed," he says. "I think the woman responsible for all the landscaping and the design of the Spanish garden and the Italian garden and the creation of the pond and the pool and bringing in these prized trees on the property is a fascinating part of the history of this place," says Rose. "That what we see today still remains. Even though the water moats and the fountains don't exist anymore, the shell of the garden is there and you can just visualize it, it has that European flair that she wanted and still exists."

Running the Inn seems like something that was meant to be for the Boves. It was just the timing that didn't go as expected. "We always used to talk about wanting to do it," says Rose. "Our weekend getaways were always at inns or B&Bs and we would always get to know the innkeepers... to the point where they would offer for us to come and do an apprenticeship. But we weren't really thinking about doing it until the kids were out of college--as a second career type thing-- but then Dennis stumbled upon this property." A friend of Dennis's had bought the inn and planned to live there with his kids who would attend Pomfret School. However, that didn't work out and his friend suggested Dennis see the property and asked him to bring Rose to see it. One thing led to another and the Bove family took the plunge, moving from a house they had built in Hebron to Pomfret where they have been ever since. Rose appreciates that they were able to stay in-state to pursue this dream, rather than having to move to Vermont or elsewhere. "And this place," she gestures around her. "...to even think of owning something this grand... I mean, we were thinking someplace small.

The Boves' endeavor has definitely been a family affair. "The kids have been a big help, they have been helping us with the Inn since they were small," says Dennis. Rose says that it has not been hard to raise a family while running the Inn. "The kids are definitely people-people," she says. "They know how to socialize with different clientele. We get people here from all over the world, so they have thrown a Frisbee with people from England, Wales, France... just making them very comfortable. It's always been a family operated business and I think that's what makes it so unique and very homey and comfortable. Our guests always have something positive to say when they meet the kids."

"And they are good workers," says Dennis. "This place requires quite a bit of physical work and they always know what has to be done and they do it themselves." Even Dennis and Rose's parents have participated in daily operations, such as helping park and greet guests who arrive for receptions. The Inn no longer employs 25 gardeners, although Dennis would enjoy that help for he is the one who mows the lawn. But he'd rather be mowing the lawn than cleaning bathrooms, he jokes.

"My biggest joy is seeing everyone enjoy this property," says Rose. "We set the stage and they are the actors. And we just sit back at that point and watch them perform in a sense and enjoy the staging that we created for them. And it's so fun. It's nice for someone to speak so favorably about your home as well as your place of business...it's happy. It's a happy business. We are generally happy people ourselves and we are always smiling and I think that that probably contributes to it too because we make it look easy. And that's the secret of success. If you can do that, you're doing it right."

Dennis and Rose encourage locals to stop by, explore the grounds and say hello to see what they are all about. Gwyn Careg Inn is open for overnight stays and all kinds of functions in addition to weddings. For more information, visit www.gwyncareginn.com and their Facebook page.

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Zip's Diner

An America Icon

BY CRIS CADIZ

You know you're an American icon when you show up in a Stephen King novel. 11/22/63 is one of this famous and prolific author's recent books, set in Lisbon Falls, Maine. In the story, Al's Diner has a time portal in its storeroom, which of course yields yet another of King's strange and fascinating plots. At the front of the book, there is a picture of a classic looking diner. Readers might assume this is Al's. But it looks remarkably like the Quiet Corner's own Zips Diner in Dayville, CT.

Zip's owner, Kevin Cole discovered this last fall when a customer brought it to his attention. Cole bought the book and found that the diner not only looked like Zips, it was Zips. He realized it was a picture taken for a postcard back in 1981. So Zips can add this celebrity to its interesting and illustrious history–one that dates back to 1946 when the diner opened in its original location on Route 6 near what today is the Danielson Post Office.

Zips is named for its original owner, Henry "Zip" Zehrer, a retired Connecticut State Trooper. When Zehrer purchased a brand new, shiny O'Mahoney diner and had it shipped from Elizabeth, New Jersey, Zips moved to its current location near the corner of Routes 12 and 101 in Dayville. From 1954 to 1960, Zips was run by a young couple Conrad and Olive Jodoin, who purchased the business from Zehrer in 1960. Over the years, the Jodoins' children--Tom, Nancy, James and Robert--all pitched in and helped. Then in 1980, Tom took over ownership and ran it with brothers Robert and James manning the kitchen. Today, Cole, Nancy's son, is the third generation to own and run this successful family business.

Cole attributes the long-running success of Zips to a great relationship with loyal and dedicated customers from near and far. This Memorial Day weekend, he noticed many familiar faces as snowbirds flocked back from Florida and traveled through the area on their way to Maine or New Hampshire. "They show up, they walk through the door and they know who's going to be here," says Cole. "They know it's going to be me or it was my uncle before that or my grandparents. They know that every year they could count on that."

Zips also does a big business with seasonal campers from Stateline Campground on the border of Rhode Island. "When you leave there, we are pretty much the first sign of civilization as you head into town," says Cole. Breakfast at Zips on weekends is a tradition for many local customers and you can often expect to wait in line for your turn in one of the red vinyl booths. Other area customers for all three meals come from nearby businesses such as FritoLay, UNFI, Spirol and more.

Cole entered the family business one day to fill in for an emergency absence and he basically never left. Although he had only worked occasionally at Zips as a fill-in dishwasher as a kid, Cole gained several years experience in the restaurant industry working at a local pizza place. As a 20-year-old UCONN student not really sure where college was taking him, Cole realized the best place for him was running the family business. In 2010 he purchased Zips from his Uncle Tom Jodoin.

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"I already knew all of our customers," says Cole. "They had known me since I was a kid so the familiarity with them was great."

Zips is proud of its consistent quality of food, efficiency and cleanliness. But Cole thinks dining at Zips is special because of the literal closeness folks have to one another. "It's beautiful the amount of relationships that are made here," he remarks.

"You are in close quarters. It's proximity...to everybody; you can see everything and everyone. It's entirely different from dining in most other places. There's a real camaraderie." He tells about a couple in their nineties who drive 35 miles from Cranston every Saturday morning to eat at Zips. They became good friends with him and his parents over the years.

"We all send a birthday and anniversary card out to them and the whole staff signs it. They know every girl's name who works here. They are friendly with some of our other customers. It's hard to describe how good that makes you feel."

Cole's mother, Nancy O'Leary, worked in the family business as a young woman and periodically later during her career as an educator. Over the years, the people—both the regulars and the ones who simply passed through—were most memorable to her. "I remember there was a family from New Jersey that came through around the end of May on their way to the Cape. This was a very wealthy woman with an entire staff—gardeners and nannies and people to clean for them. She always sat in the back corner of the room and she had a flask and my father had to come out and have a drink with her. She would take out her flask and they'd have glasses with ice and she'd pour them a drink. Her chauffer would be outside polishing the car. For years and years she did that. You'd see her on Memorial Day and you'd see her again on Labor Day. And then one year she was gone. We didn't even know her name."

O'Leary also remembers when Zips was surrounded by farmland and groups of Gypsies would camp near the diner. "In the summer time, they'd be traveling to the Cape to do roofs or driveways or whatever. So we'd close up Saturday night and come in Sunday morning and there'd be all these trailers here." She laughs as she recalls how things would disappear when the Gypsies arrived: salt & pepper shakers, napkin holders, plates, even the bathroom faucets!

In addition to being a little like Cheers, where "everybody knows your name" (even when you choose to remain nameless), Zips attracts its fair share of celebrities. O'Leary recalls waitressing one slow night when the flamboyant Liberace showed up, sequined jacket and all. "He sat right here in this booth," says O'Leary, "he hung his jacket right up there on that hook. He had a big buxom blonde as his traveling companion. He was on his way to the Warwick Musical Theater. People used to fly to Hartford and then they'd have to drive to Warwick from there. So anyway, they stopped here with their driver who stayed outside. So he took his jacket off and hung it up and they ate and when they went to go out my mother notices this jacket hanging there and so she runs out and gives it back to him. I'm like, 'Mom, no!' " Needless to say, O'Leary was very disappointed that she didn't get to keep that jacket.

"People knew who it was but no one bothered them," says O'Leary of that night. "And that's what happens here," adds Cole. "Renee Zellweger and Brian Dennehy used to stop in and people would notice but not bother them." O'Leary also remembers when she first started working, groups of men would come in from Hartford and Providence to meet and it would be the mob. "When they came in," she says, "they would only sit in the back because they'd have someone stand outside the window behind them. They would never sit where someone could come in behind them." Other famous faces that have been seen at Zips include actors Alec Baldwin and Kim Basinger and athletes Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio, Carl Yazstremski and Peter Manfredo, Jr.

Zips serves traditional diner food: burgers and fries; soup, salad and sandwiches; and breakfast all day—including a Southern favorite, biscuits and gravy. Slices of pie fill the stainless steel cases behind the Formica countertop and there's always a hot pot of coffee on the burner. Cole notes that Zips roasts several twenty-pound turkeys every day, which provide freshly carved meat for their Thanksgiving-style roast turkey dinners and also for delicious sandwiches, salads and soups. "That's a treat," says Cole. "You can't get that everywhere." And despite the much appreciated "old-fashioned" touches of homemade food and fast, friendly customer service, Zips does accept credit cards!

Next year, Zips will celebrate its 60th anniversary and plans to host a big party, similar to the popular block parties they held in 2011 and 2012. Zips is open from 6AM to 9PM seven days a week with very few exceptions, including a few holidays when they close at noon. For more information visit www.zipsdiner.com.

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LIVING HISTORY
at the Quasset School

BY CRIS CADIZ

Travel down Frog Pond Road toward the Woodstock Elementary School and you'll notice a quaint red brick building with white wooden door and shutters and granite doorstep located just in front of the school. This town landmark is the historic Quasset School. This one-room schoolhouse served students all the way up until 1944, making it one of the country's oldest one-room schoolhouses in continuous use.

The town of Woodstock has a long history dating back to its original settlement in 1686. Amazingly, public education in Woodstock dates back nearly that far—this during the days when it was unusual for children of most families to attend school at all. The first school in Woodstock was organized in 1690 when John Chandler taught students in people's homes. In 1705 the Hill School became the first public schoolhouse in District #1. In 1738, the Quasset School was built and established as District #4 in South Woodstock.

In 1952, the Quasset School was slated for demolition. A group of concerned citizens led by Albert Williams raised enough money to have the school moved from private land to its current location on Frog Pond Road in 1954. Soon after it was dedicated as a National Shrine to Public Education by the U.S. Commissioner of Education and the Governor. Although not in its original structure or location, the Quasset School is still an important part of public education in Woodstock.

Today, the Quasset School is a living history museum, owned and maintained by the Town and overseen by the Quasset School Advisory Committee. Although funded by the town, the school is reliant on volunteers that serve on the committee and staff summer tours, among other responsibilities.

Every year in late spring, the Quasset School once again rings with the laughter and chatter of schoolchildren as the third grades inhabit the building for a full week. The kids get to dress in period garb, sit at old fashioned wooden desks, and play games children their age would have played in the 1800s. During this week, they study Woodstock history as part of their social studies curriculum. This includes field trips to some of Woodstock's historical sites such as Roseland Cottage, Roseland Park, the Town

Hall, Woodstock Academy, the Inn at Woodstock Hill, and a number of other places.

Irene Wheeler taught for 41 years at Woodstock Elementary School starting in 1969. She recalls that the third grade program started out—more than forty years ago—as one day a week during the school year when teachers brought their students out to the schoolhouse. "Then we got together and talked about it and decided since we had to teach Woodstock history, wouldn't it be nice to spend a whole week out here," Wheeler explains. "We asked the kids to dress in period as much as they can...they would use the wood stove if it was cold enough." She explains how the kids would take turns reading from the old books that are stacked on bookshelves in the back of the schoolhouse. They write with quill pens and on slates. They also might discuss artifacts, such as two tin lunch pails perched on a window sill, and how the schoolchildren back then

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would have to bring their own lunch usually wrapped in brown paper and carried in old paint cans.

Today Wheeler is retired but still involved in educating folks about the history of the Quasset School. Here she serves as a docent when the school is open to the public for tours during the summer. She is chock full of facts and memories about the school and its history. "When they started out, they had about 42 students from ages 4 to 17—and the teacher was only 18!" she laughs. She points to the blackboard where a word problem is written out in neat cursive. "This is what teachers had to do to get the job," she says.

According to Wheeler, one prospective teacher in the late 1800s, Lewis Mills, decided that farming sunup to sundown was too much work and decided to apply for the teaching job. "They were supposed to do it in two hours and nobody could get the problem," says Wheeler. "He took it home and I think it took him about a month to do and he brought it back. And they said, 'You solved it, you can have the job'...and he taught here for years." Throughout his tenure at the Quasset School, Mills had to do things such as instruct students who mostly spoke Swedish, build his own desks and make his own blackboards. Mills went on to be the first teacher to introduce grade levels to Woodstock schools. He later advanced to rural school supervisor and eventually to State Commissioner of Education.

By 1869, Woodstock had 17 school districts, each with its own one-room schoolhouse. Each district built and maintained its own schoolhouse within walking distance for the children who attended; this could be up to four miles away. The district was also responsible for hiring and providing room and board for the schoolteachers, who stayed in citizens' homes during summer and winter sessions that lasted 15 to 18 weeks. "The kids had to be home with the planting, when everything went in, and in the fall when everything came out," says Wheeler. "And they usually helped at home during the morning and afternoon. They didn't have playtime like they do now. They had to go home and do chores and work on the farm. They might have a half an hour to themselves. So at the school when they had lunch hour, that was their playtime."

Throughout her long teaching career, Wheeler saw many third graders through their weeklong stay at Quasset School, but often the reaction from them was similar. "I think the children are shocked that sometimes they have to share two to a seat and the boys sit on one side of the room and the girls on the other. They are surprised to learn that there was more than one grade in the school. They also thought it was awful that children went to school in the summer and not the spring and fall."

Overall, this week of making history come alive in an authentic one-room schoolhouse is an enlightening and fun experience for everyone. "The third graders love almost everything they do at Quasset," says Wheeler. "Whether it is writing with quill pens, making copybooks, sewing pen wipes or playing old fashioned games like 'What Time Is It Mr. Fox?' or graces or rolling hoops, they love all of it. I think each child has their own memories of what he or she liked best."

The Quasset School is open to the public on Sundays in July and August from 1 to 4PM. A guide will show visitors the schoolhouse and share facts about its history. Groups are welcome to view or use the schoolhouse at other times during the year with permission from the Quasset School Advisory Committee. Admission is free but donations are appreciated! For more information, visit www.townofwoodstock.com, go to History and click the Quasset School link at the bottom of the page.

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www.foodiesofnewengland.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NORTHEASTERN, CONNECTICUT

July

6th @ Dusk
Putnam Fireworks
Rotary Park, Putnam - Live entertainment @ 7:15pm to 9:15 pm; fireworks to follow.
www.winyradio.com

9-14th
Brimfield Antique Show
Brimfield, MA
The Brimfield Antiques Show is the largest outdoor antiques show in the world, with over 6,000 dealers. Some fields charge an admission fee others are FREE.
www.brimfieldshow.com

12th
Rewind (70's & 80's Classic Hits) @ 7pm
Riverside Park, North Grosvenordale, CT
Free concert, bring your lawn chairs or blankets.
www.thompsonrec.org

11 & 12th
Be Free! Enjoy Tea...
Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes, Pomfret, CT
$32 plus tax and gratuity. Reservations required.
www.celebrationsshoppes.com

13th @ 7:00 pm
Linda Eder al Fresco & River Fire
Rotary Park, Putnam, CT
Free concert, bring your lawn chairs or blankets.
www.winyradio.com

19th
Original Jelly Roll Soul – New Orleans Style Danceable Jazz @ 7pm
Riverside Park, North Grosvenordale, CT
Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy great family entertainment. Concerts are free.
www.thompsonrec.org

27th
Movie in the Park @ 8:15pm
Riverside Park, North Grosvenordale, CT
Free movie night, bring chairs and blankets.
www.thompsonrec.org

August

2nd
Black & White - swing-blues and Rock & Roll @ 7pm
Riverside Park, North Grosvenordale, CT
Free concert, bring your lawn chairs or blankets.
www.thompsonrec.org

2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17 @ 7:30 pm
4, 11, 18 @ 2 pm
Anything Goes
Bradley Playhouse, Putnam, CT
Anything Goes is the age old tale of boy meets girl, in which complications ensue. Musical: $21 for Adults • $18 for Senior Citizens/Students/Children
www.thebradleyplayhouse.org

8 & 10th
A Very Merry Unbirthday Tea
Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes, Pomfret, CT
$32 plus tax and gratuity. Reservations required.
www.celebrationsshoppes.com

9th
Outta the Blue -
Country Rock & Roll with Blues and Swing @ 7pm
Riverside Park, North Grosvenordale, CT
Free concert, bring your lawn chairs or blankets.
www.thompsonrec.org

10th beginning @ 6am
Annual Deary Memorial Road Race and Walk
Starting at JD Coopers, Putnam, CT
Popular five-mile road race (9AM) & walk (6 & 8AM) to benefit the Deary Memorial Cancer Fund; 15 or 30-mile bike ride options (8AM). **www.winyradio.com**

10th @ Dusk
Riverfire Plus the Little Big Band
Rotary Park, Putnam, CT
www.winyradio.com

11th (rain date 8/18)
Putnam's Main Street Car Cruise
Downtown Putnam, CT
Custom & classic cars and motorcycles, prizes, raffles, food, music, vendors, entertainment and a burnout pit! Free for the whole family! **www.winyradio.com**

16th @ 1:30pm
Arc Rubber Duck Race
Rotary Park, Putnam, CT
Rubber ducks compete in the Quinebaug River for prizes; benefits ARC of Quinebaug Valley. $5 per duck.
www.winyradio.com

22-25th
The Brooklyn Fair
Brooklyn Fairgrounds, Brooklyn, CT
One of the nation's oldest agricultural fairs, voted 'Best Country Fair in New England,' by Yankee Magazine.
www.brooklynfair.org

30th through 9/2
Labor Day Weekend
151st Woodstock Fair
Woodstock Fairgrounds, Woodstock, CT
Animals barns, agricultural barn, antique corner, arts & crafts, horse shows, food and a full midway.
www.woodstockfair.com

September

3-8th
Brimfield Antique Show
Brimfield, MA
www.brimfieldshow.com

7th @ 12pm
Family Day & Riverfire
Rotary Park, Putnam, CT
Chowder Fest, Live Entertainment and more!
www.winyradio.com

12 & 14th
September Splendor
Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes, Pomfret, CT
$32 plus tax and gratuity. Reservations required.
www.celebrationsshoppes.com

21st, 9-3pm
Celebrating Agriculture
Woodstock Fairgrounds, Woodstock, CT
Hearty Breakfast, Agricultural Displays, Events/Demonstrations, Forestry Fair, Farm Equipment, Entertainment, Food, Farmer's Market, Hay Rides & Farm Tour & more!

21 & 22nd (Sat. 10-5pm, Sun 11-4:30pm)
Artists in the Country Outdoor Show & Sale
52 County Road, Woodstock, CT
It's an ourdoor arts festival and a fundraiser for children with Autism - money for camp Quinebaug, Killingly, CT.
www.artistsinthecountry.org

29th, 12-4pm
10th Annual Thompson Community Day
Riverside Park, North Grosvenordale, CT
Featuring Games, activities, face painting, information booths, Fire Trucks and much more! There will be a variety of food for purchase and live entertainment.
www.thompsonrec.org

On Going Events

May through October
First Fridays @ 5pm (First Friday of each month)
Downtown Putnam
Enjoy a variety of entertainment, specials from merchants & restaurants, art exhibitions, demonstrations and much more. **www.discoverputnam.org**

Fort Hill Farms, Thompson, CT
Fort Hill Farms offers fun events throughout Spring, Summer & Fall. **www.forthillfarms.com**

Arts & Framing, Putnam, CT
Features art exhibits throughout the season.
www.artsandframingputnam.com

Connecticut Audubon Society - Center at Pomfret, Pomfret, CT Lots to See & Do
www.ctaudubon.org

Silver Circle Studio, Putnam, CT
Features local artwork and art exhibits throughout the season. Offers a range of workshops and art classes for all ages. **www.silvercirclestudio.com**

Sawmill Pottery, Putnam, CT
Features a gallery pottery and gifts, open-studio space, classes (for kids and adults) and workshops throughout the season. **www.sawmillpottery.com**

The Vanilla Bean Cafe, Pomfret, CT
Features live folk music every Saturday @ 8 PM. and displays artwork from local artisans.
www.vanillabeancafe.com

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READY FOR SOME ADVENTURE?

CHECK OUT THE NEW ADVENTURE PARK IN STORRS, CT

What do you get when you mix Tarzan with Mission Impossible, add in a huge dose of fun and some cool safety gadgets - then drop it in our very own northeastern corner of CT? The Adventure Park at Storrs, Ct, that's what!

BY JENNIFER HELLER

The Adventure Park is the vision of the husband and wife team Lynn Stoddard and Chris Kueffner. They wanted to preserve and steward a piece of forested land they had purchased. Being physically active themselves, they wanted a place people could come enjoy nature and participate in activities that challenge their minds and their bodies - and they succeeded with their "aerial forest ropes park."

An aerial ropes park differs from a simple ropes course in that you advance independently: at your own pace while self-belaying. The staff are available on the ground for assistance or questions and can quickly be up on the course if needed, but do not guide you through.

Lynn suggested thinking of the courses in terms of a ski slope.There are a total of five levels, ranging in difficulty from yellow (easiest) to black diamond (hardest). You get to choose the degree of challenge appropriate to you. And as you gain confidence, you can tackle harder courses. Each course takes approximately 15-30 minutes to complete. Your ticket gives you unlimited climbing for 2 hours so you can try a few out and have some fun. Lynn said, "I'm personally afraid of heights. But since I've been doing this, I've been amazed at myself."

I was intrigued by the idea and jumped at the chance to try it out with my friend, Dot. My husband and our 4 year old son tagged along. Kids over 7 are welcome on the courses, but my little guy is too young, so my husband and son had a great time watching from the lovely nature paths that criss cross the property - and I loved having the cheering section! Only those who are climbing on the course are ticketed, others are welcome to observe.

Driving up to the Adventure Park we parked in a shaded gravel lot and caught glimpses of the course

criss crossing above us. A short walk past lovely picnic tables led to the check-in building where we met the staff and signed our waivers. Emma, our check-in staff, helped us suit up in the nifty harness and passed out leather gloves. Walking out of the building, I couldn't help but gawk at the platforms and hanging paths above and around us. Some of them are almost art forms, built out of wood, rope and wire cable. In keeping with the goal to celebrate and protect nature, there are no bolts into trees. Instead, everything is attached and supported by a cable system. The system, designed and implemented by Outdoor Venture Group, is based on a Swiss model and, as you can imagine, is impressively organised. It is based on wooden platforms

connected by "elements." There are 10-13 elements per course, which include zip lines, balance bridges, agility challenges, tunnels, controlled drops and more.

After the staff fits you into your harness, there is a safety briefing that goes over the state of the art harness and the double carabiner "always locked on" system. This system keeps you clipped into the course by two points, and only allows you unclip one at a time - when transitioning from element to element. The safety briefing is reinforced by practicing key moves with a staff member. After being thoroughly checked out, we were ready to start.

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August 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17 at 7:30 pm. August 4, 11 & 18 at 2:00 pm. *Musical $21.00 & $18.00

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October 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, & 19 at 7:30 pm. October 6, 13 & 20 at 2:00 pm • *Non-musical $17.00 & $14.00

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While the heights issue might appear to be the biggest challenge, once I was engaged in any of the courses, my awareness of the height (which varies with the course) faded as I concentrated on the elements. The courses feel like a physical puzzle. It was fun to take a minute looking at each element, strategizing how to cross it. There is no "right" way to cross the bridges, which makes it really fun to do with a friend. We compared methods and laughed our way through the course. There was some fun shrieking on the zip lines, but mostly we were close enough to offer encouragement and the occasional wisecrack. While I don't have a fear of heights, I did wonder about my physical upper body strength, but I was pleasantly surprised that each element offered ways for me to successfully cross it.

The staff was gracious, calm, cheerful and, above all, inspired confidence. We had a safety check on our harness at the beginning of every course. Additionally, on my toughest bridge (which rock star Dot cruised right across) I noticed one of the bright orange clad staff members pause alertly under me until I had successfully completed it. We felt in good hands and that feeling contributed to make the challenges more fun.

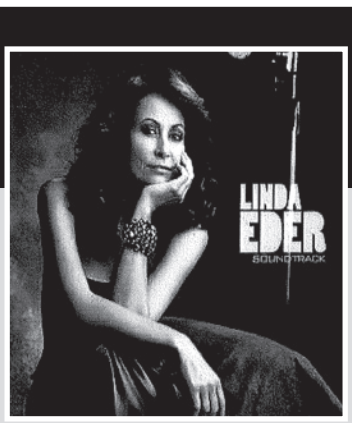
At the end of the two hours, we left laughing and talking about our struggles, successes and fun. Come enjoy this great new addition to NE Ct, bring a sense of adventure, a picnic and enjoy a whole new way to wander in the woods. Who knows what you can do -- be prepared to impress yourself!

Hours: The Adventure Park is open every day 9 am to dusk. It has been open on weekends since May 10 and is seeing great response from the area. Weekends have been the busiest so if you can go during the week there will be fewer crowds. We enjoyed the tranquility with only 5-6 other groups on the course and I imagine with high numbers of participants there could be a backup on a few of the elements that take some time to get across. They operate under "pool and golf" guidelines for weather closures, so call before you come if there is high winds or heavy rain.

Cost: Ages 7-9: $28, Ages 10-11: 33, Ages 12 & older: $38. (Twilight special: Available last 2 hrs of the day: all ages $28)

This is a great new option in the area for birthdays - I'm debating who gets the first birthday party there - me or my daughter! There are clear, mostly common sense, guidelines for using the park - wear closed toed shoes, contain loose hair and clothing, etc.

For more information, go to:
www.storrsadventurepark.com
or call (860) 946-0606



Linda Eder al Fresco 2013 Comes to Rotary Park

As a part of this season's free events, the Town of Putnam is welcoming beloved singer Linda Eder on Saturday, July 13, 2013 at 7pm at Rotary Park Bandstand with a rain date of Sunday July 14th.

Linda Eder al Fresco 2013 is sponsored by Wheelabrator Putnam, Inc. and Putnam Bank. This will mark the seventh year of sponsorship for the town's summer al Fresco events. Linda Eder has abundant vocal gifts as well as a skill for delivering dramatic, emotionally resonant interpretations of familiar songs while making them her own! Linda will be accompanied by The Seven Hills Symphony Orchestra, a forty-piece group, and her touring musicians.

Linda has performed at many prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, The Town Hall, The Kennedy Center, Davies Hall, Radio City Music Hall, Wolftrap and Ravinia Festival. Now she comes to Putnam!! In addition to this spectacular event, Putnam's popular River Fire will begin at intermission! **www.winyradio.com**

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Happy 25th Anniversary

MARTHA'S HERBARY

On a warm spring morning, Martha's Herbary in Pomfret was abuzz with activity. From the straw bee skeeps lining the stone entrance to the 18th century building, where distracted bees madly pollinate the perennial gardens, to the chatter of a family who had just toured Pomfret School, the locally owned business mirrored the energy of the nearby Vanilla Bean Café just across the road.

BY NANCY WEISS

Owner Michelle King and her assistant, Carol Hamilton were in the kitchen just off the main salesroom baking gluten free cookies and making lemon balm and mint tea for an evening party. They took turns at the retail counter, tallying up sales and carefully wrapping items in bright tissue paper and bags tied with ribbon.

Martha's Herbary is celebrating its 25th year in business. Few local operations manage to survive for a quarter of a century and King, a native of the area, is quick to cite the inspiration of the founder, Martha Paul. Paul was a "creative genius" according to King, had a vision for a special place where customers could shop, cook, garden and feel at peace.

The feeling of contentment and tranquility often noted by employees and visitors may be a natural continuation of the history of the property. The building was the home of world famous woodcarver, J. Gregory Wiggins and his sister for many years. Photos show Wiggins, pipe firmly clenched in his teeth, carving in the front window of the house. Later

Michelle King

designer Margaret Deal lived on the corner and filled the house with the signature wallpaper she designed for Schumacher in New York City.

Regardless of the source of the ambiance, King, who worked with the late Martha Paul for many years before purchasing the business from her husband, is never surprised when customers or employees comment on how happy they feel when they visit the property.

King embraces the philosophy that the business should be a close to nature as possible. She looks for organic, fair trade items and tries to buy from local crafts people whenever she can. As the main buyer for the shop, King works with artists from New England and specialty purveyors she visits twice a year in New York City.

King has developed a series of successful workshops that sell out almost as soon as they are offered, generally through an email list of customers.

The Core Curriculum includes: Succulent Wreath Making, taught by Jeff Woodward of Woodward Greenhouses in Chaplin, Gluten-Free Dairy –Free Cooking, Natural Cleaning Products, My Grandmother's Pie, a holiday program where participants learn how to make the pie crust King's grandmother perfected nearly

a century ago, and Christmas Basket, an all herbal gift.

Holiday Shopping Nights are designed to help spouses purchase items their family members have admired on visits to Martha's Herbary. King develops a 'wish list' that guides purchasers to just the right gifts.

During the summer, King offers shopping nights for small groups. Hostesses invite friends and get a percentage from what is purchased. A shopping party for 6- 9 people for a 3-hour period includes refreshments and lots of laughter as women model clothes for each other and shop at their leisure.

Looking toward the future, King plans to expand

items for men. She has added organic t-shirts, soap and after shave line and an assortment of wool neckties. Clothing is a strong seller and King will continue to focus on items made in America or Fair Trade products from other countries.

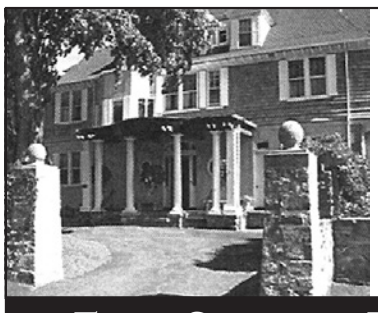
"At Martha's I like to offer classics with an edge. Our customers know they can find clothes and accessories that are a little funky, a bit artsy," said King.

Jewelry ranges from signature pieces that are handmade in New England to origami earrings, wire crocheted necklaces and eclectic accessories in a wide price range.

Scarves are big sellers as are soy candles, platters, decorative trays, and an array of glassware that can be used in the home or make welcome wedding gifts. Handmade metal items from Haiti add to the offerings. Organic creams and lotions fabricated by Pam Brundage, a Pomfret resident, target bug bites and sooth skin irritation.

King offers fine art from painter Laureen Hilka as well as hand painted pillows, whimsical mismatched socks made in Vermont and soft baby clothes and toys. A recent addition, Cape Clogs, made in Sweden, is footwear for the garden or the office.

As Martha's Herbary celebrates its silver anniversary, Michelle King and her staff look forward to sharing the special aura of the property with new visitors as well as the loyal customers who have made the eclectic shop a welcome stop on the busy corner of route 169 and Deerfield Road in Pomfret. For more information visit **www.marthasherbary.com or call 860-928-0009.**



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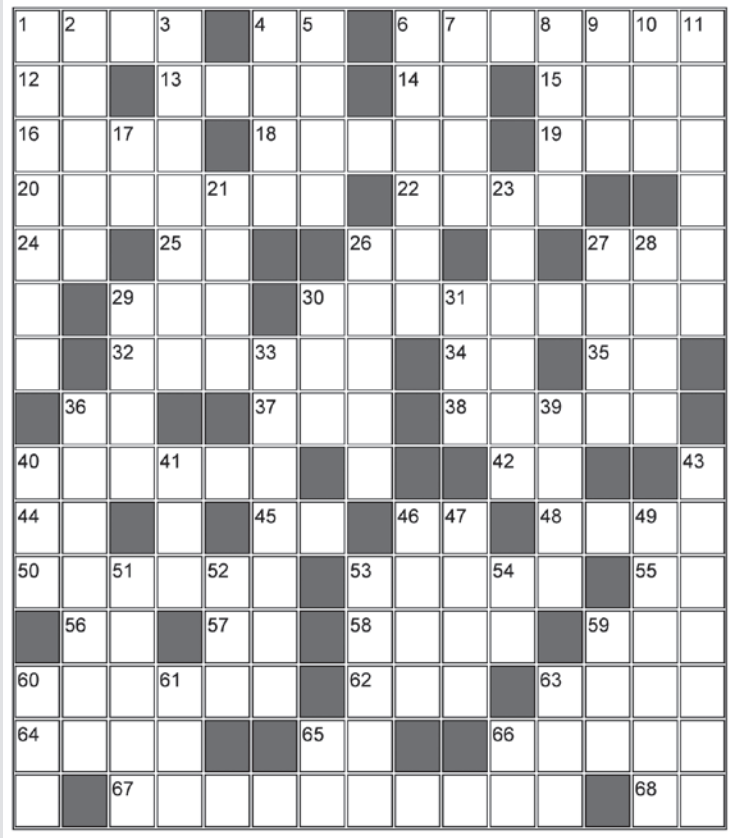
Your Quiet Corner Crossword

by Burt Hansen *(answers can be found online at putnamtraveler.com)*



ACROSS

1. A saga, or a children's movie this summer
4. Akin to um
6. Famous dolls, or where Australians do their grilling
12. A neighboring state, to the PO
13. An angel has to have it
14. Rays to avoid (abbrev)
15. Tan
16. A tribe in South America
18. Where ribs and bacon come from
19. Anna and the King of ____
20. Prize dolls at the carnival
22. Pate de fois ____
24. Nazi security police (abbrev)
25. ___ and behold
26. Maker of appliances as well as jet engines (abbrev)
27. Your cooler has to have it
29. ___ as a fiddle
30. A legendary Greek general, or a Quiet Corner lake
32. Help
34. ___ and out
35. Initials of a Maine outfitter, or a really large bra size
36. A prairie state, to the PO
37. Actor ___ Cariou
38. _____ parking
40. Personal flotation device?
42. Continent in 16 across (abbrev)
44. Long Term (abbrev)
45. Between FA and LA
46. Gardeners need to know this number (abbrev)
48. A South African tribe
50. Is like a jaguar
53. ____ days of summer, part 3
55. Not them
56. Akin to LOL
57. Not you all
58. A type of raspberry
59. Local Standard Time (abbrev)
60. Corn has to have it
62. Lions and tigers and bears ____ (var)
63. Meter maid
64. ___ ___ the roof
65. Fi, fie, ___, fum
66. Follows before
67. An old-fashioned word for something modern
68. Akin to St or Ave

DOWN

1. Norwegian explorer (var)
2. Maine's trees
3. Silent film star, or a Quiet Corner town
4. Do it or ____
5. How Michael gets the boat ashore
6. Man-made lake in Woodstock
7. Declare
8. Porgy and ____
9. Here, in Paris
10. Pitchers need to know this number (abbrev)
11. 6/21 - 9/22
17. Type of popular song (abbrev)
21. The tiniest bit
23. Yoga poses
26. Miller and Close
27. During 11 down, it might be OK to be this
28. A tribe in the UK
29. A celebration, for short
30. Pub choice
31. Louis __ __ __
33. An outcome of yard work?
36. A burger has to have it
39. ____ days of summer, part 1
40. Ms. Lopez, for short
41. My gal ____
43. A dog has to have it
46. A baby carriage in the UK
47. _____ days of summer, part 2
49. Sheen
51. High-end pen maker, back in the day
52. Part of IOU
53. What singers would do, back in the day
54. ___ ___ Top
59. Had one too many?
60. A dog has to have it (usually before 43 down)
61. The New Economy (abbrev)
63. Country address (abbrev)
65. Between MI and SO
66. __ __ IOU

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Summer 2013 Arts Workshops/Classes

***Little Creative Movers**...Ages 3 to 5. July 8 to 11. 9:00-12:00. $100. Explore movement through ballet, improvisations, dance 'play', rhythm explorations, tumbling, and more. Explore creative expression through creative movement/art activities, costume making, theatre games, and music. Little Creative Movers is a workshop that will allow your little one's creative senses to soar. The workshop will encompass many facets of the movement arts and include guest teachers to facilitate new concepts and discoveries.

***Exploratory Arts Workshop**...Ages 5 to 8. July 15 to 18. 9:00-1:00. $125. This workshop will include dance, theatre, music, and creative expression through an exploratory approach. Students will have the opportunity to learn new concepts in the above areas and then explore those concepts through their own investigative work. Facilitation in choreography, show creation, installation art, and movement games are just a few of the areas students will explore to begin the foundations of creative expression through learned arts techniques (dance, theatre, music). Guest faculty in all genres of the arts will be leading the workshop to create the most progressive learning environment possible.

***Creative Minds/Expressive Souls Workshop**...Ages 8-12. July 15 to 18. 9:00-3:00. $175. Students will have the opportunity to study dance (ballet, modern, hip-hop, choreography, improvisation, and more), music (ensemble music, rhythms, alternative music conception), theatre (scene work, script writing, theatre games, and more), and personal expression (poetry writing, creative writing, journaling, performance design, etc...). This workshop is to facilitate new and emerging young artists to connect. We will work to merge technique with creative expression and spend much time with faculty who will mentor this development.

***Theatre/Music Workshop**...Ages 7 to 12. July 22 to 25. 9:00-4:00. $200. Time to get creative and have a blast! This workshop will explore theatre and music and put you in the artist's seat! Write your own musical and perform it for friends and family at the end of the week. Students will have daily classes in theatrical and musical theories and then will work with faculty members to create their own stage piece.

***Creative Art Exploration Workshop**...Ages 12 and up... August 5 to 7. 6:00-9:00. $100. Let your creativity soar in the experimental and unpredictable workshop! For three days you will immerse yourself into your own creative process...Explore all mediums of art and see what works for you...or not! This is a great workshop if you are interested in trying a variety of mediums and nourishing your own creative side!!!

***Intensive Dance Arts Festival**...Ages 13 and up. August 12 to 16. 9:00-5:00. $250. Study ballet, modern, improvisation, contemporary, choreography/composition, and movement analysis and more. Explore creative expression through creating new work, movement scores, writing, installation art, and more. Study with guest and resident artists. Learn choreography for a full-length performance to be presented on Friday 8/16 for the community.

Weekly Classes

*Ballet/Creative Movement...Ages 5 to 7. Wednesdays July 10th through 31st. 4:00-5:00...$50
*Ballet/Modern...Ages 8 to 12. Wednesdays July 10th through 31st. 5:00-6:30...$65
*Ballet/Modern...Ages 12 and up. Wednesdays July 10th through 31st. 6:30-8:30...$85

For registration information please call
The Complex Performing Arts Centre @ 860.963.7170.

Summer Performance

RENT
Directed by David Panteleakos
July 12, 13, 19, 20 @ 8:00
July 14 @ 2:00

A Magical Quest from *East to West*
interactive and educational performance for children. July 12 and 26 @ 10:00 am
$5 per person

COME BACK, LITTLE SHEBA
Directed by Leslie Snow
August 23, 24 @ 8:00
August 25 @ 2:00

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